



Week 2 Assignment

Overview

The Texas Campus STaR Chart was developed around the four key domains of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. The STaR Chart is designed to help campuses determine their progress toward meeting both Long-Range Plan and district goals.

In the Week 1 assignment, you summarized the Long-Range Plan and the Technology Applications TEKS, and completed a self-assessment of the requisite skills that you need to implement the TEKS.

In this week's assignment, you will look at the strengths and weaknesses of your campus as you examine and apply data from the Texas Campus STaR Chart, a technology data-gathering tool provided by the state. You will complete a three-year comparison of Texas Campus STaR Chart data from your campus with statewide summary data. Like the resources you utilized in your Analysis assignment, the STaR chart will prove useful as you become an instructional leader. You will practice using a Web 2.0 tool to reflect on your learning and also create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce and present your campus STaR chart findings to the faculty.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 2 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished	Proficient	Progressing	Not Meeting Expectations
Campus STaR Chart Analysis	Student uses relevant STaR Chart information to thoroughly complete the chart provided. Student comprehensively responds to all questions. (3 points)	Student uses relevant STaR chart to fill out most of the chart provided. Student provides a brief analysis of campus technology strengths and weaknesses. (2 points)	Incorrect data pulled from STaR Chart, STaR data summary chart is not completed. Student does not respond to all questions. (1 point)	Student does not complete the chart provided. Student does not respond to the questions. (0 points)
Creating and Using a Blog	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information related to the blog's creation or to previously-created blog; student posts a thoughtful, at least 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of The Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. The opinion piece includes (1) a description of the area, (2) progress in the area – including local, state and national, (3) trends in the area – including local, state and national, and (4) recommendation for improvement in the area. (2 points)	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information and student posts a less than 250 word opinion piece and/or opinion piece includes less than four components in the “accomplished” category. (1 point)		Blog not created, and/or student does not write an opinion piece and post it on blog. (0 points)
Create a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty.	Student successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes (1) an	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes at least four of the	Slide presentation not created and/or slide presentation not posted on the students' blog and/or slide presentation created and posted on students' blog but includes at least three

	<p>introduction/agenda,(2) content relevant to the topic, (3) summary/conclusion (4) at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data, (5) at least one working hyperlink, (6) navigational icons, (7) talking points only with six or less lines of text per slide, (8) up to three digital photos to personalize the campus.</p> <p>(3 points)</p>	<p>at least six of the eight components in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(2 points)</p>	<p>eight components in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(1 point)</p>	<p>of the eight components listed in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(0 points)</p>
Assignment Mechanics	<p>Responses are relevant to course content; student uses correct APA writing mechanics; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.</p> <p>(2 points)</p>	<p>Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, including APA writing mechanics.</p> <p>(1 point)</p>		<p>Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.</p> <p>(0 points)</p>

Week 2 Assignment, Part 1: Campus STaR Chart Analysis

State law mandates that the Texas Campus STaR Chart be used to evaluate a campus' progress toward meeting the goals of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The chart can also be used for technology planning, budgeting for resources, and evaluation of progress in local technology projects.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the Texas Campus StaR Chart by entering the following address in your web address bar:
<http://starchart.esc12.net/>
- Click on "Texas Campus STaR Chart," and read the article to review STaR Chart scoring.
- Click on "Statewide Summary Data." Click on 2007-2008 Summary Statistics. Print out the Statewide Data Summary.
- Click "Campus Data Search." Choose the year from the drop-down box. Then type in the name of your selected district (without "ISD"). For example, for Beaumont ISD, you would only type in Beaumont. Do not type in a campus. Click "Simple Search." A list of campuses in your district will appear.
- Click on your selected campus, and the STaR chart will appear.
- Print out the most current three years of STaR Charts for your selected campus.
- Analyze the data, fill out the chart below, and answer the questions provided.

School District: Highland Park Campus: University Park			
Summary Area	Key Area Totals	Key Area STaR Classifications	Trends
Teaching & Learning	2008-09:18 2007-08:19 2006-07:15	2008-09: Advanced Tech 2007-08:Advanced Tech 2006-07:Advanced Tech	Online learning is our lowest area. We do not utilize online learning. As of last year we began utilizing Moodle and this year it is being vastly used. We have once a month mandatory technology training where the CIT and 3 other master technology teachers lead the learning. After the meetings, employing online learning as a way to keep teachers motivated on what was learned is a great way to enhance teachers utilization of lessons and techniques learned at the meetings.
Educator Preparation & Development	2008-09: 17 2007-08: 20 2006-07: 16	2008-09: Advanced Tech 2007-08: Advanced Tech 2006-07: Advanced Tech	We went down from 07/08-08/09 because our district as a whole did not offer district wide staff development as often as we held on campus staff development in technology. We do have just begun the implementation of learning at our school. Most teachers prefer Moodle.

Leadership, Administration, & Instructional Support	2008-09: 24 2007-08: 24 2006-07: 18	2008-09: Target Tech 2007-08: Target Tech 2006-07: Advanced Tech	We scored all 4's in this area for 2 years because the Principal and CIT are find technology integration an important aspect to daily lessons. Our principal allocated a large amount of money every year for teachers to go on trips to NECC, TCEA, and Alan November's BLC.
Infrastructure for Technology	2008-09: 20 2007-08: 20 2006-07: 20	2008-09: Advanced Tech 2007-08: Advanced Tech 2006-07: Advanced Tech	Our principal does not believe in stationary computers in a classroom. She wants laptops. We have 7 "COWS" (computers on wheels) with 12 computers on each. Half of our classrooms only have one or two stationary computers while the others have fewer stationary computers. Every teacher has a laptop to use for their teacher station and work with their Promethean Boards. I believe the teachers do not understand just how powerful our LAN/WAN is currently. The teaches rated the school/district infrastructure as only advanced in areas that are actually target tech.

- 1) What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest strength? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

Our greatest strength on our campus is Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support. The teachers are given support in many areas. We have at least once a month training for the

entire campus. Once every three weeks the CIT meets with teachers to lesson plan and to survey teacher needs. Our principal stays abreast of current trends to stress important issues in technology with teachers. The principal allocates a large amount of money every year for teachers to go on trips to NECC, TCEA, and Alan November's BLC. Our small district had 45 teachers and administrators at Alan November's BLC conference in Boston this summer.

- 2) What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest weakness? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

Our greatest weakness is educator preparation and development. I understand why teachers scored themselves and our campus as only advanced in this area. Due to time constraints they often do not sign up for the professional development offered. The mandatory staff development times are useful. I also agree with my teachers in this key area in which they only gave us 2 points in professional development for online learning. I would love to find ways to help teachers use more online learning. It is just not utilized on our campus yet. Since Moodle was introduced at the end of last year in our district, I can see that this score will definitely increase as teachers utilize this tool more.

- 3) In an online learning community interaction, which STaR Chart area would you choose to introduce to the other members? What data supports your choice?

In an online learning community, I would especially discuss EP6 which consists of Professional Development for Online Learning which is my campus's lowest classification. For the last three years, my campus scored a 2 (Developing) in this area. During this online environment, I would go over the factors that indicate an online learning environment. I can assume that many of the teachers on our campus may not realize that many of the activities they engage in are considered and Online Learning community. Many of our staff members belong to Alan November's Building Leadership Communities in which all the learning takes place online with other professionals. I believe it is the jargon that STaR uses during the assessment that teachers get confused and do not realize they participate in these communities of learning online.

While doing other research I found that in 2008 TEA has the state listed as having more than 92% of Texas campuses on an early or developing tech level for Online learning. Online learning for students and for educators is a way for an equitable share of learning to take place. For students, it would not matter if they were in a rural or heavily populated area, with online learning, the education would be the equitable. Teachers could receive professional development in areas that their own district may not be promoting. The teacher could delve into areas they want more information and learning.

Week 2 Assignment, Part 2: Creating and Using a Blog

For the next part of this week's assignment, you will create your own blog and post an opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. If you already have your own blog, you may publish your piece on your blog. If you don't have your own blog, use the directions below to create one.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the video, "Blogs in Plain English" by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>
- View "Blogs in Plain English" as preparation for this assignment.
- Enter the following address in your web address bar: www.blogger.com (if you do not have a blog), or use a blog you already have set up.
- Read the information about the site.
- Click "Create a Blog." Complete the information required to use the site, including the selection of a username and password. (If you already have a Google account, you can enter your username and password at the top of the home page.) Check the box to accept the terms of service, and click "Continue" to move to the next step.
- After creating your blog account, click "Name Blog."
- Select a title for the blog (example: "TX Long Range Plan" or something a little more creative) and a blog address URL (example: <http://yourname.blogspot.com>). Click "Continue" to move to the next step, "Choose a Template."
- Choose a template for your blog, then click "Continue."
- When the "Your Blog Has Been Created" screen appears, click "Start Blogging."
- On the screen provided, compose a 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: *Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support; or Infrastructure for Technology*. You may discuss the area as it relates to your campus or the area in general. Include:
 - 1) a description of the area.
 - 2) progress in the area (include local, state and national progress).
 - 3) trends in the area (include local, state and national progress).
 - 4) your recommendations for improvement in the area.
- Record your blog information in the chart below. If you have a blog and did not need to create one for the assignment, enter that information. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Your Blog's Name	Your Blog's URL
Going Beyond 21 st Century Sills	http://knightl.blogspot.com

1) What is the educational value of blogs and blogging to the 21st century learner?

I have personally seen how students writing have been enhanced while using blogs and forums. The students feel their voice has a global audience and delight in writing. It is fantastic to see students whose parents, grandparents, and other family members have responded to their blogs. Students appreciate having a larger audience than just their teacher and classmates. Blogs give an authentic global audience to their work.

Another value belongs to the students who never raise their hand in class to answer a question. Blogging allows them to be heard even if not with their voice. Those students can shine and others can see their progress.

An educator can get a better idea of the whole class's ability and not the ones who are always willing to share. It is a better gauge of the learning taking place.

2) What are the concerns of blogs and blogging in education?

Many districts are concerned with students putting too much personal or inappropriate information on their blogs. They worry that this information will get in the wrong hands and cause the students harm. Many districts block all blogs in their area in a way to ensure that no one is breaking the rules.

Some districts are worried about teacher misuse of blogs. Some administrators worry their staff members will create a logistical problem by discussing issues that are not appropriate with their students.

Some worry teachers and students will post copyrighted information which would put the district in a legal bind.

Districts need to set up blogging policies instead of blocking this wonderful tool. If the district informs teachers in their Acceptable Use Policies, teachers will understand the ramifications of information they post.

3) How can you use blogging to communicate with school stakeholders?

Updating parents and other stakeholders keeps the community apprised of the goings on in the school. The visual of a blog is more aesthetically pleasing than just an email. Plus, with blogging all the "conversations" shared with the stakeholders are in one place. They would not need to search out mailings, newsletters, or emails to see information previously discussed since blogs are linear.

Stakeholders can leave comments on a blog as a form of conversation about topics discussed. The community members do not all have to be present at a meeting for the group to know everyone's views.

Also, the blog allows community members and the author to have a better relationship. Each person knows more about a person's thoughts on any given subject. Whereas, in person, the stress of public speaking can get in the way of personal thoughts and only the facts are raised.

Week 2 Assignment, Part 3: Creating and posting a Slide Presentation

As an instructional leader, you must be able to effectively share information with the faculty. You must also be able to talk confidently to those you lead. Throughout this Application Assignment, you will expand your knowledge and practice using technology tools. Presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Presentation, is used to communicate ideas or information through text, images, animations, audio and video.

In Part 3 of the Application assignment, you will create a slide presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty. After you create your slide presentation you will post your presentation to your blog.

Resources for Effective Presentations:

- <http://www.garreynolds.com/Presentation/slides.html>
- <http://www.shkaminski.com/Classes/Handouts/powerpoint.htm#strengths>
- http://kinesiology.boisestate.edu/kines442/tips_for_making_effective_powerp.htm
- www.iasted.org/conferences/formatting/Presentations-Tips.ppt
- <http://faculty.baruch.cuny.edu/blsci/main/details.asp?docid=156>

Directions:

1. Create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty.
 - 1) Include an introduction/agenda
 - 2) Include content relevant to the topic
 - 3) Include a summary/conclusion
 - 4) Include at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data
 - 5) Include at least one working hyperlink
 - 6) Use navigational icons
 - 7) Use talking points only with six or less lines of text
 - 8) Use up to three digital photos to personalize the campus
2. Upload/Embed your presentation to your Blog.

Microsoft PowerPoint Instructions:

To share a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation in your blog, you must first upload the presentation to a Web-based service, such as SlideShare.net, authorSTREAM.com, or Scribd.com, that will convert the file to a format that can be embedded into your blog.

Directions for authorSTREAM:

1. Go to www.authorSTREAM and click “**JOIN NOW**” from the menu at the top of the page to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
2. Select “**Upload PowerPoint**” (from menu across top of screen).
3. From the drop-down menu, select “**Single File Upload**”.
4. Click “**Browse...**” to select your saved PowerPoint file.
5. Complete the “**Title information**” and select “**Private**”
6. Next select “**Upload PowerPoint**”

7. After you receive the message your file has uploaded, select **"Your Stuff"** from the menu across the top of the screen.
8. From the drop-down menu, select **"Your Presentations"**
9. Select **"Send to Blogs & Networks"** (from menu on righthand side of screen)
10. Select **"Blogger"**
11. Enter your Blog's **Username** and **Password** (Note: The **Blog** field is your blog's URL. This should populate by default; if not, enter your blog's URL.
12. Select **"Post"**

Directions for SlideShare:

1. Go to www.slideshare.net and click "SIGNUP" (at the top of the page) to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
1. Click **"UPLOAD"**
2. Click **"Browse and select files"** and select your saved Powerpoint presentation.
3. After your file is uploaded, you will be asked to choose settings for your file. You have the option to share publicly or privately (viewable only to you). Once you have selected your settings, click **"Publish All"**.
4. After a while your file will be converted. The conversion may take a few minutes depending on the size of your file. Click **"here"** to view status of the file conversion.
5. When conversion is complete, click **"Update"**
6. Select **"My SlideSpace"** from the menubar at the top of the page.
7. Click **"your presentation"**
8. Select **"Post to Blogger"** from menubar below your presentation.
9. When the Google Accounts Access Request Screen appears, click **"Grant Access"**.
10. On the next screen:
 - a. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
 - b. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation.
 - c. Confirm the **"Post To"** information is correct. This should be the **Name** and **URL** of your blog.

Finally, click **"Blog this!"**.

(Note: You may need to change the Zoom Level to be able to click **"Blog this"**)

Google Presentation Instructions:

1. After you have completed and saved your presentation, select **"Share"** from the menubar (at the top of the page). From the drop down menu, select **"Publish/embed"**.
2. On the next screen, select **"Publish document"**.
3. Once the document is published on the web on the next screen, you will need to select the presentation size (small or medium is adequate) and copy the code in the box (make sure you highlight ALL the code, then press **<CTRL C>**).
4. Open your blog, sign in, and select **"New Post"**.
5. On the next screen:

- a. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
 - b. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation. Press **<Enter>**.
 - c. Next, select the **“Edit HTML”** tab across the top of the text box.
 - d. Paste the code you copy in step 3 in the text box. Press **<CTRL V>**.
 - e. Select **“Preview”** to preview your post.
6. Finally, click **“Publish Post”**.